

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 SCCT-01

DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01

OMB-01 SY-05 /103 W

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R 211010Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECSTATE WASHDC 6271

S E C R E T CAIRO 11240

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION CAIRO FROM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA, 20 AUG 76
HEREWITH REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EG

SUBJ: SECURITY SITUATION IN ALEXANDRIA

REF: CAIRO 11138

1. CONOFF CALLED ON MININT LIAISON OFFICER COL. MAGID
AUG 20 TO DISCUSS SECURITY SITUATION IN ALEXANDRIA AREA.
MAGID EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT PREVENTION FURTHER LIBYAN
TERRORIST BOMBINGS ENORMOUSLY DIFFICULT AND ASKED THAT ANY
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES BE BROUGHT PROMPTLY TO HIS
PERSONAL ATTENTION. NOTING THAT AMERICAN TARGETS
COULD WELL BE ON QADDHAFI'S LIST, HE GAVE RUN DOWN
OF BUILDINGS ON WHICH HE INTENDS MAINTAIN PRESENT
24 HOUR GUARD: CONSULATE BUILDINGS, RESIDENCES OF
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ALL CONGEN OFFICERS, SCHUTZ SCHOOL, PHILLIPS

PETROLEUM OFFICE, AND SANTA FE OFFICE (NEAR AGAMI). CONOFF THANKED MAGID FOR HIS CONCERN, PROMISED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH, AND AGREED TO CONTACT HEADS OF LOCAL AMERICAN COMPANIES TO SUGGEST THEY WARN THEIR STAFFS TO AVOID CROWDED AREAS.

2. RECENT BOMBINGS. MAGID VOLUNTEERED (UNPUBLICIZED) INFORMATION THAT SEVERAL BOMBS HAVE BEEN FOUND IN LOWER EGYPT WHICH WERE DEFUSED BEFORE EXPLOSION. ONE SUCH DEVICE "MUCH BIGGER" THAN THAT WHICH EXPLODED ON ALEX TRAIN AUG 14 OR THOSE AT MUGAMM'S WAS RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON ALEX-MERSA MATRUH TRAIN. ARREST IS EXPECTED VERY SOON OF EGYPTIAN NATIONAL FROM WESTERN DESERT FOR ALEX TRAIN AFFAIR. LATTER EXPLOSION WAS CAUSED BY DEVICE 40 CM BY 70 CM WEIGHING 4 KGS.

3. LIBYAN RECRUITMENT. MAGID SAID LIBYAN TERRORIST TRAINING BASE WEST OF TOBUK SPECIALIZES IN TRAINING EGYPTIAN BEDOUIN FROM WESTERN DESERT. THESE ARE NOT SETTLE PEASANTS FROM SIWA, BUT GENUINE BEDOUIN WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY CROSSED BACK AND FORTH OVER BORDER. THEY ARE VERY POOR AND MAKE WHAT MONEY THEY CAN FROM SMUGGLING, INCLUDING DRUGS. QADHAFI'S GOING PRICE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IS 1000 LIBYAN POUNDS IN ADVANCE AND 2000 MORE ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF MISSION. QADHAFI IS CONTINUING HIS POLICY OF ISSUING LIBYAN NATIONALITY PAPERS TO ANY OF BEDOUIN WHO APPLY.

4. MININT BLAMED. MAGID LAMENTED THAT POLICE HAVE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK, BUT PUBLIC BLAMES THEM FOR NOT DOING BETTER. WHEN HE WENT TO SCENE OF ALEX TRAIN OUTRAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, CROWDS SHOUTED HYSTERICALLY AGAINST INVESTIGATING POLICE OFFICERS.

5. SOVIETS IMPLICATED. MAGID SAID "ALL" EXPLOSIVE DEVICES HAVE BEEN SOVIET MADE. REFLECTING HOE AND POPULAR VIEWS, HE MADE CLEAR HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT SOVIETS ARE HAND IN GLOVE WITH THE LIBYAN "MADMAN".

6. LIBYAN CONSULATE. MAGID CONFIRMED LARG BRANCH OFFICE IN ALEX HAS BEEN CLOSED, BUT SAID ITS OFFICERS

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ARE STILL IN TOWN. (COMMENT: WHEN CONOFF DROVE BY CONSULATE AUG 20, 5 OR 6 REGULAR POLICE OFFICERS WERE ON GUARD, BUT NO ARMY OR CENTRAL SECURITY FORCES WERE IN EVIDENCE).

7. PUBLIC EDGINESS. THROUGH MAGID DOWNPLAYED CONOFF'S SUGGESTION THAT ALEXANDRIANS MIGHT BE BEGINNING TO AVOID PUBLIC PLACES, HE STRESSED THAT AMCITS SHOULD

BE CAUTIONED TO KEEP AWAY FROM CROWDED AREAS. (COMMENT:
IN RECENT DAYS, LOCAL RESIDENTS HAVE TOLD US THEY
ARE DEFINITELY AVOIDING CROWDED AREAS. CONGEN DRIVER
OBSERVED HE WOULD HAVE TO BE AS CRAZY AS QADHAFI TO
GO TO A CINEMA IN ALEX NOWADAYS.)

8. EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN BORDER. COL. MAGID SAID THAT THE BORDER
CROSSING CHECK POINTS WERE STILL FUNCTIONING BUT HE GAVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSURE WAS UNDER ACTIVE
CONSIDERATION. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE THREATS THAT
QADHAFI HAS MADE TO SEVER RELATIONS.

9. COMMENT: MAGID IS OBVIOUSLY DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT
DIFFICULTY HIS PREVENTATIVE TASK AND EAGER TO WORK
CLOSELY WITH CONGEN. USUALLY RATHER TACITURN, HIS
WILLINGNESS VOLUNTEER INFORMATION AND ADMIT HEAVY
PRESSURE UNDER WHICH HE WORKING ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN
CONOFF'S EXPERIENCE WITH HIM.
FICHTE UNQUOTE EILTS

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